

## Rhode Island Early Learning Standards



### Strategies that Support Children in the Area of Science

#### Scientific Knowledge

- Paint with water on the sidewalk and talk about why it disappears<sup>1</sup>
- Involve parents in sharing science-related experiences from home.<sup>2</sup>
- Read information books or explore the Internet to learn more about a given topic of study.<sup>3</sup>
- Plan in-depth projects or topics of study related to science knowledge that build on and expand children’s interests.<sup>4</sup>
- Engage children in coherent, organized studies of animals, plants, and the environment. <sup>5</sup>

#### Scientific Skills and Methods

- After planting seeds with the children, provide markers and paper so they can observe and record the growth over time<sup>6</sup>
- Model curiosity, inquiry, and investigation for children.<sup>7</sup>
- Provide a variety of tools for scientific observation and experimentation, such as magnifying glasses; scales and other measuring tools; collection boxes.<sup>8</sup>
- Teach children observation skills. Encourage them to go beyond just “looking.” Have children describe, draw, discuss with others, redraw and describe again to refine observation skills, build vocabulary, and develop understanding of concepts.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Diane Trister Dodge, Laura Colker & Cate Heroman. *Creative Curriculum for Preschooler*. Washington, DC: Teaching Strategies, 2002. 398.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Head Start Bureau. *The Head Start Leader’s Guide to Positive Child Outcomes: Strategies to Support Positive Child Outcomes*. (Washington, D.C September 2003), 72.

<sup>3</sup> *The Head Start Leader’s Guide*, 72.

<sup>4</sup> *The Head Start Leader’s Guide*, 72.

<sup>5</sup> *The Head Start Leader’s Guide*, 72.

<sup>6</sup> Diane Trister Dodge, 381.

<sup>7</sup> *The Head Start Leader’s Guide*, 70.

<sup>8</sup> *The Head Start Leader’s Guide*, 70.

<sup>9</sup> *The Head Start Leader’s Guide*, 70.